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MRV *Alba na Mara*

Survey 0323A

PROGRAMME

25 February – 17 March 2023

Ports

Loading: 22 February 2023, Fraserburgh

Sailing: 25 February 2023, Fraserburgh

Half landing: 6 March 2023, Oban (tbc)

Unloading: 17 March 2023, Fraserburgh

In setting the survey programme and specific objectives, etc the Scientist-in-Charge needs to be aware of the restrictions on working hours and the need to build in adequate rest days and rest breaks as set out in Marine Scotland's Working Time Policy (Lab Notice 34/03). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the survey with staff on-board before work is commenced. In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the survey report, to I Gibb and the survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a survey ending. In the case of the survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

Fishing Gear: Scallop dredges

Project: 20 days, SCALOP

Objectives

1. To carry out a survey of scallop stocks on the west coast of Scotland.
2. To age, measure and assess shell damage on all scallops caught.
3. To collect information on by-catch of other commercial fish and shellfish species.
4. To identify, quantify numbers, and damage assess starfish species in all dredge tows.
5. To collect whole scallops for heavy metal testing as part of the OSPAR assessment of hazardous substances in the marine environment.
6. To record and retain marine litter obtained during the dredging process (monitoring for MSFD)
7. To collect tissue samples for genetic testing.

Procedure

The survey will depart Fraserburgh on 25 February and, after vessel drills, make passage for the west coast of Scotland.

Scallop dredge hauls will be selected from sites used on previous surveys as shown in Figure 1. Hauls will be of 30 minutes duration and towed at a speed of ~2.5 knots. From each haul all of the scallops will be measured to the half centimeter below and aged. In addition, numbers and size distribution of commercial fish and shellfish species will be recorded along with scallop shell damage and starfish numbers and species. Scallops (ten individuals per station) will also be collected from selected sites and frozen for heavy metal analysis back at the laboratory. Any litter collected in the dredges will be recorded as set out in the SOP and placed in bags to be disposed of on return to port.

The survey will end in Fraserburgh on 17 March.

Normal contacts will be maintained with the laboratory.

Submitted: S Kinnear, 20/02/2023

Approved: I Gibb, 20/02/2023

Figure 1: Survey station locations for scallop dredge survey 0323A.

